

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10 IO-13 /085 W
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O R 151233Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 485
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AGENCY FOR IOP/M, IBS, IAA, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CG, EG, MO, NI, SU
SUBJECT: "PUNCH" EDITORIAL:WHO IS FRONTING FOR AMERICA?

1. LAGOS "PUNCH" (INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL NEW INDEPENDENT
DAILY) CARRIES EDITORIAL APRIL 15 ENTITLE QTE. ZAIRE'S NEW
AFRICAN ALLIES: WHO IS FRONTING FOR AMERICA? UNQTE. TEXT
FOLLOWS:

QTE. (1) IT DOES APPEAR - BY COINCIDENCE, WE HOPE - THAT
ONLY THREE ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE SO FAR RESPONDED TO PRESIDENT
MOBUTU'S DIPLOMATIC MANIPULATIONS AMONG AFRICAN STATES SINCE
THE BEGINNING OF THE INTERNAL REVOLT IN ZAIRE. AND, MORE
STRANGE STILL, THE THREE QUICKLY RESPONDED WITH ARMS. THE
TROOPS OF MOROCCO AND EGYPT ARE ALREADY IN THE FRONT TRENCHES
OF SHABA PROVINCE. SUDAN'S PRESIDENT NIMEIRY, AS IF NOT TO BE
OUT-COMPETED, HAD SUDDENLY DISCOVERED THAT "ANY THREAT TO WHICH
ZAIRE IS EXPOSED WILL HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON SUDAN, SUDAN'S
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SECURITY AND NATIONAL UNITY" AND HAS PROMPTLY OFFERED AID TO
MOBUTU "TO CRUSH THE FOREIGN INVASION OF ZAIRE".

(2) NO ONE HAS YET CONCLUSIVELY DISCERNED THE REAL MOTIVES
BEHIND THIS AID. IF WE GO BY OFFICIAL EXPLNATION, THE MOTIVE
IS OF COURSE SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND PREDICTABLE: ACCORDING TO KING
HASSAN, "MOROCCO CANNOT STAND BY WITH ITS ARMS FOLDED IN THE

FACE OF THE GREAT DANGER THAT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE REPRESENTS IN ZAIRE AND AFRICA, AND SHE HAS ASSUMED HER RESPONSIBILITIES".

(3) THIS IS NOT THE REAL MOTIVE. MOROCCO HAS IN THE RECENT PAST STOOD BY "WITH ITS ARMS FOLDED" WHILE FOREIGN INTERFERENCE TOOK PLACE IN ANGOLA, IN ETHIOPIA, AND IN DAHOMEY. EGYPT AND SUDAN HAVE ALSO WATHCED WITH A BYE-STANDER'S INDIFFERENE THE VARIOUS CRISES, INTERNAL OR FOREIGN, WHICH HAVE DISTURBED THE DOMESTIC PEACE OF SEVERAL STATES OF BLACK AFRICA IN RECENT YEARS.

(4) WHY, THEN, THIS PANG OF CONSCIENCE, AND THIS SUDDEN DISCOVERY OF ONE'S RESPONSIBILITY AND DESTINY IN ZAIRE?

(5) WE BELIEVE THAT THE SAD BUT TRUE FACT IS THAT THE INTEREST OF THE THREE INTERVENTIONIST COUNTRIES IN PEACE AND STABILITY IN ZAIRE OF INDEED ANY PART OF BLACK AFRICA IS AT BEST AS DUTY-BOUND AND RITUALIZED AS THAT OF ANY OTHER AFRICA BROTHER OR FRIEND. THIS LEAVES US WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT THEIR NEWLY DISCOVERED ZEST IN ZAIRE IS A FLOW-OVER FROM OTHER COMMITMENTS. FOR MOROCCO, THE ROLE OF THIS FEUDAL KING AGAINST ALGERIA, POLISARIO AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA HAVE ALREADY DEFINED FOR US THE KIND OF BRIEF HE GOT FROM HIS IMPERIALIST THRONE-KEEPERS. EGYPT'S SADAT HAS INCREASINGLY BAEEN SHOWING THE TONE OF HIS NEW COMMITMENTS, SINCE THE HISTORIC TURN-ABOUT OF "MY DEAR HENRY" DAYS. SUDAN, ALWAYS ON THE MARGIN OF SECURITY, IS THE READY-MADE PREY OF ANY PAY-MASTER AND SAVIOUR.

(6) FOR WHOM ARE THESE COUNTRIES FRONTING? AMERICA?
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